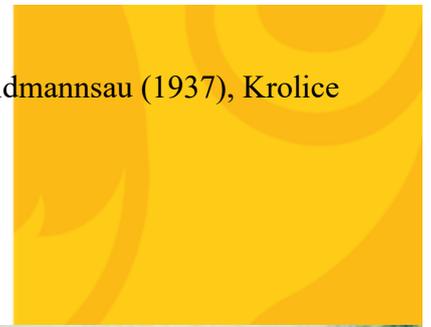




Królikowice

Crolic (1334), Krolkowitz (1376), Krolkwitz (1843), Weidmannsau (1937), Krolice (1945), Królikowice (1948)



KROLKWITZ

Postcard sent in 1915

1. Palace, the front elevation from the north was facing the courtyard; a wooden gazebo was built on the east side
2. Forester's lodge (no longer exists, destroyed after World War II) near Wierzbice railroad station; a pheasantry building stood nearby
3. Folk school (now a private building, 2 Lipowa Street)
4. Eduard Kasseck's tavern and inn (now a village community room, 2a Boczna Street)





5. Palace from the 18th century, rebuilt at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries; some of the original door and window woodwork, wooden staircase and stuccoed ceiling in the first floor room have survived
6. Plaques with initials of Hans Christoph Wiersheim-Kramst are visible on residential buildings from 1930s, intended for the estate's employees
7. In spring, white patches of wild garlic bloom in the park; it is an edible, medicinal and decorative plant
8. In reference to the name of the village, a quest (a field game) was created in 2021 under the title "Szlakiem królika" (The Rabbit Trail). A game card can be downloaded at: www.quest.com.pl

It is assumed that the name of the village comes from the personal name Król or from the the European rabbit, or the goldcrest, the smallest of the birds living here (its Latin name is *Regulus regulus*, meaning "little king"). The village is first mentioned in 1334.

The village has a linear settlement nature, and the oldest houses are situated along Lipowa Street. One of the most interesting buildings is the palace (Boczna Street) from the end of the 18th century with an adjoining several hectares of former landscape park transforming into a mixed forest. The Baroque manor house was rebuilt in Neo-Renaissance style by Eduard von Kramst, a Lower Silesian industrialist, philanthropist, owner of several factories and landed estates.

The estate in Królikowice was owned by the von Wiersheim-Kramst family until the end of World War II. Królikowice together with Wierzbice and Nowiny formed a trust (fideicommiss*) of almost a thousand hectares (fields, meadows, forests and gardens). The Wiersheim-Kramst family did not live in Królikowice, their main residence was located in Morawa (Strzegom community). In the palace in Królikowice the Wiersheim family stayed only occasionally.

After 1945 the palace premises were turned into apartments for employees of State Agricultural Farm (PGR) and later of the Plant Breeding Station in Kobierzyce. Currently the building is private property.

The village did not suffer much during World War II, only three residential buildings were damaged. Repatriates who came to Królikowice after 1945 came mainly from the borderlands, from Lviv and Tarnopol provinces.

In the village there is a community room, a playground. Królikowice has 388 inhabitants (as of 15.08.2021).

*

fideicommiss, or family ordination; in order to prevent the fragmentation of the property within the foundation act, the management of the property was entrusted to a fideicommissioner, this function was usually performed by the eldest son

Królikowice

On palace crime and philanthropists

The palace in Królikowice was built at the end of the 18th century, when the estate was owned by the von Schikfuss family. At that time the village had thirty-four houses, a distillery, a blacksmith shop, a windmill, and an inn. The small village was soon to be on the lips of the entire area due to a brutal murder.

The new owner of the village, Second Lieutenant Johann Christoph Eisenhart, son of the Berlin police chief, moved with his family into the palace in Królikowice. For some time he had been obsessed with the idea that everyone is trying to kill him, he even suspected his beloved wife, whom he had praised for her perfection and virtue, of involvement in the conspiracy.

One day he felt extremely ill, had a headache and fever. A doctor was summoned, but Eisenhart, fearing poisoning, gave some of the medicine to the dog and told the cook to consume the rest.

He sent the servants away from the court, giving them various orders. In the evening, he locked himself in his bedroom with his wife and two daughters, and when he woke up in the middle of the night and saw his wife standing at the window, he thought that she wanted to let the murderer inside.

Eisenhart went mad, drew his sword and attacked a woman and then one of his daughters, who stood up for her mother. He ran out of the palace into the village and shouted that he was king. When he was stopped, a terrible crime was discovered in the palace: Wilhelmina, Eisenhart's wife, and Emilia, one of the daughters, were dead. There were as many as seventy-five wounds inflicted with a spade on the body of the wife.

All the servants, the local nobility were in shock, and the home-school teacher Hilbert wrote three poetic works after the tragedy dedicated to, among others, "mother and grandmother, overwhelmed by the tragedy".

Shortly after this event, the palace changed owners several times. Among them there were philanthropists, people involved in improving the living conditions of people living on noble estates, e.g. count von Harrach, who established village kindergartens so that children would be cared for in the absence of working parents and orphanages, or Eduard von Kramsta, an industrialist from a well-known family of Świebodzice industrialists, who donated huge sums of money to charity. The last pre-war owner, Hans Christoph Wietersheim-Kramsta, followed in the footsteps of his cousin Maria von Kramsta, known for her extensive charity work, and paid for schools and kindergartens for the children of his employees.

Today the palace belongs to the descendants of the pre-war owners. One of Hans Christoph von Wietersheim-Kramst's daughters, Mellita Sallai, who remembers his visits to Królikowice during school holidays in the 1930s, now lives in the palace in Morawa (2021) and continues the family's philanthropic traditions. She is the co-founder of a foundation that runs a free kindergarten in the Morawa palace.